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Court Holds Banks Must Pay \$750 Fee

The Territory again won out in the matter of the license fee for banks. Honolulu in a decision handed down by Chief Justice Hartwell this mornng in the First American Savings and Trust Company case. The decision was on exceptious from the Circuit Court, and upholds the decision of Judge De Bolt, that banks must pay their license fee of \$750 in Honolulu. E. W. Sutton represented the Territory and Clemons the banking interests

The decision is given in full below:

FIRST AMERICAN SAVINGS & TRUST COMPANY OF HAWAII, LTD., c. A. J. CAMPBELL, TREASURER OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

EXCEPTIONS FROM CIRCUIT COURT, FIRST CIRCUIT.

HARTWELL, C.J., WILDER, J., AND CIRCUIT JUDGE ROBINSON IN PLACE OF BALLOU, J.

Banks and banking-license fee.

Act 25, S. L. 1997, requiring a different fee for a banking license in Honolulu. Hilo and elsewhere in the Territory, is valid,

OPINION OF THE COURT BY WILDER, J. 100 Days

This is an action to recover \$765, the fee with stamps for a banking license in Honolulu, paid by plaintiff to defendant under protest pursuant to Act 25 of the Laws of 1907. The circuit judge, jury waived, found for the defendant. Plaintiff then brought the case to this court on exceptions.

Act 25 of the Laws of 1907, amending R. L. Sec. 1352, relating to fees for banking licenses, reads as follows:

The annual fee for a banking license for a business in Honobuly shall be seven hundred and fifty dollars, in Hilo, five hundred dollars, and in all other places, two hundred and fifty dollars

Plaintiff claims that this statute is invalid because contrary to either or both the 5th and 14th amendments of the constitution, its brief being confined to the contention that it discriminates arbitrarily.

The legislature in a matter of this kind may classify or discriminate if the classification or discrimination is based on some reasonable ground, which is furnished by population in some cases. Territory v. Pottie, 19 Haw. 99, 104.

The question remains to be considered then whether the legislature may require different license fees from banks operating in Honolulu, Hilo and elsewhere in the Territory. The evidence shows that the population of Honofulu is almost 40,000, of Hilo almost 20,000, and of all other places in the Territory less than that of Hilo.

It was said in Robertson v. Pratt. 13 Haw, 590, 600, "Where natural distinctions require discrimination, not to discriminate works injustice." That proposition cannot be disputed. to

In the case at bar there is a natural distinction between the different places in this Territory where banking may be carried on. This, of course, allows the legislature to reasonably and fairly classify the amount of the license fee required for banking. Even if the judgment exercised by the legislature in a matter of this kind is in our opinion unwise or perhaps oppressive, still that is not of itself sufficient to declare that a statute passed pursuant to such judgment violates the equal protection provisions of the constitution. Heath & Milligan Co. r. Worst, 207 U. S. 338. In order to hold that this statute is unconstitutional on the grounds claimed it must be clearly, and actually arbitrary and unreasonable and not merely possibly so. Bachtet v. Wilson, 204 U. S. 36. The statute in question, however, does not appear in any way to be oppressive, arbitrary, unequal or itl advised. Our conclusion is that the statute is valid. The following cases are in point: Ozan Lumber Co. v. Union County Bank, 207 U. S. 251; Magoun v. Illinois Trust & Savings Bank, 170 U. S. 283; Hayes v. Missouri, 120 U. S. 68, and Missouri v. Lewis, 101 U. S. 22.

If, as contended by plaintiff, the statute were invalid, the question would remain whether plaintiff could recover in this action, for the reason that it would have to pay the same amount of license fee under the old law, which would force, as it is required to do under the new law. In view of the conclusion we have reached, however, we express no opinion on

Exceptions overruled.

Thompson & Clemons for Plaintiff.

E. W. Sutton, Deputy Attorney General, for defendant.

NAVAL SLIPS ARE KAHUKU HEARS MATSON FILLING WITH MUD LINER TALKING AT SEA

al authorities here will have to unlertake some dredging operations hemselves. The slips at the Naval wharves are filling up very rapidly with mud, and it is realized that, unany draught will not be able to en-

When the Pacific Fleet was here ast, some trouble was experienced. Whenever a ship was moved, mud Point. was churned up in chunks and the keels of several of the warships evetaoinemfwypshrdlu123456cmvfw1 scraped around on the bottom of the slips. Since the departure of the men-o'-war, more mud has been wash d in, and the slips are daily growing

The matter is now being considered at the Naval Station, and it is not unlikely that within a few weeks a dredge will be put to work, cleaning out the slips and making them ready to receive ships of deep draught, should such arrive in the near fu-

trawberry that bears, throughout mends widening of stream. he year and excells the red berry. Girls of Montiesta Club of Stanford form new chapter of Tri Delta

The Kabuka wireless station last light heard the Matson liner Hilonian talking with the oil steamer Rosecrans. The Hilonian gave her loeation as 1340 miles out from San Francisco. An effort was made to ess something is done soon, they will get into communication with her, but be in such condition that ships of her masts carrying the agricle are short, and she evidently could not hear the signals sent out from Kahuku, though her own messages were heard plainly by the operator at the

> It is believed that by tonight the Hilonian will have arrived near enough to catch messages from Kahuku. At any rate, the operator will make an endeavor to get into communication with the ship. From the message intercepted it is evident that all is well on board the Matson liner, and that she is making good

light bulb as foot-warmer and sets house afire.

nel to sea gets rap from Colonel Bid-Hugo Lilienthal creates a white die of War Department, who recom-

> Business depression fails to hurt Harriman's Union Pacific profits for

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TENYO MARU STIRS UP PLENTY OF MUD

The waters of the harbor were hurned into a muddy red soup this norning when the Japanese liner Ten yo Maru slipped out of her dock and urned around, preparatory to picking her way out through the channel. Evry revolution of the great propellers ent up fresh supplies of mad, untihere was not a particle of clear watr to be seen.

At one or two places the Tenyo ently hit a mud bank though need of the disturbance was probably canby the suction from her powerful prosellers, according to the old-timers who know every inch of bottom in the harbor. The Tenyo draws a lot of water, however, and at low tide re pulres almost as much water as the harbor affords.

GEORGE SEA'S BROTHER WAS GIVEN. ALL CARE

Deputy High Sheriff George Sea has eceived a very friendly letter from Chief of Police F. W. Hoefer of Appleton. Wis., giving the details of the death of William Kai, who was George Sea's brother. The letter tates that Kai was injured by having is foot crushed between couplings on train. He was taken to the hospital there every attention and care was e would recover, hemorrhages set in and he died. Mr. Hoefer goes into detail and tells how every care and at tention possible was given Kai. He was given an excellent funeral, and before his death many people called to see him and left flowers in the room George Sea feels much relieved at the above information

The Inter-Island steamer Likelike arrived before daybreak this morning and was at her dock at an early hour She was expected in yesterday morn ing, but delay in loading made it imossible for her to run on schedule time. The Likelike brought 6000 bags of sugar and thirty head of eattle frod. the island of Hawaii,

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